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Hints for the Home.

OIL lamps are as popular as ever, and bowls and jars and urns of quaint shape in china are used to make them. A novelty this season is of white porcelain, cut in cameo effects, and a lamp in this ware in pink and white, mounted in brass, is quite showy. The bowl and shade are exactly alike in cutting and coloring, and the price complete is \$7.95. The wrought-iron lamps are much cheaper than formerly, and a large one with a yellow shade may be bought for \$8.

As beautiful as anything shown in the shops, although it has been some time in the market, and is therefore not a novelty, is the lamp with bowl and fluted shade in deep rich red with oxidized silver mountings. It comes at various prices, from \$10 up, and one at \$45 has the shade in silver. In the best lamps the plating is all done on brass, and is therefore more costly but much more durable than when done on the white metal. The tall lamp, entirely of cut glass, has been revived in greater beauty than ever, and this with the "crystal" candelabra which come with many branches, and are both high and low, give with their silken shades a very brilliant appearance to both drawing-room and dinner-table.

The same latitude is allowed in the construction of over-shades, and they are still made of paper and silk and lace, the simplest of all, perhaps, being a scarf of Oriental silk or rich embroidery loosely tied around the glass shade. A beautiful umbrella shade lately seen had the wire frame covered with white net, and over this were pink pond-lilies carelessly laid on, and not in great profusion. The distinguishing feature, however, was a fringe of bright green seaweed at least a quarter of a yard deep, which encircled it, and which gave a look of peculiar grace and beauty, serving at the same time as a pleasant screen from the light. Chrysanthemums are in high favor, and very natural ones made of paper are 35 cents apiece. A bunch of these attached to a wire makes a pretty screen easily adjusted, while a cluster of paper roses is used in the same way.

The manufacturer of the willow lamp shade evidently aimed to produce something that would be durable, and he has certainly given us a novelty. It is interlaced with narrow pink ribbon and has a cluster of yellow buds and grasses at one side. The price is \$19.50.

Some rose candle holders sell for 25 cents apiece, although the larger ones are still 50 cents, as they were last winter. This pretty conceit is carried out in various forms, and photograph holders with a garland of china roses and forget-me-nots encircling them are \$2.25 apiece. They also come in perfumery stands, and

a single flower is made to hold a photograph or menu card; these are also 25 cents.

There is nothing especially new in table linen, and plain cloths with hem-stitched borders are still used equally with the figured ones in satin damask. In some pieces large vines of wild roses, pond-lilies and field flowers of all sorts, in natural size, are seen, but the smaller figures and geometrical designs are more artistic. Where hem-stitched borders are used, they are about two inches deep, and the napkins to match have a one-inch hem.

In many cases ladies buy plain damask and have it stamped, and embroider it in white or yellow silks. These cloths are handsome, but the time spent upon them might be put to better use.

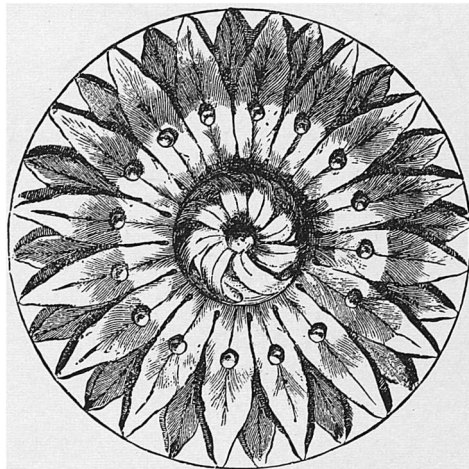
Plate doyleys, already hem-stitched and stamped ready for embroidering, are fifteen inches square, and range in price from \$9 to \$21 a dozen, while "centre tables" and tray cloths are of various prices, according to the quality of the goods and the amount of drawn work in the border.

A dozen finger-bowl doyleys of fine linen may be bought for 50 cents. When one considers the labor it is to draw the threads in order to cut them square, this seems a small sum; in fact, it has been estimated that only 25 cents is charged for the work. These, of course, are neither fringed nor stamped, and a favorite style of decoration is to cover them with tiny sprays of flowers thrown on carelessly. In a charming set recently seen, there were carnation pinks in beautiful shadings on one, forget-me-nots on another, and the sweetbrier rose, white and yellow jasmines, etc., were used with excellent effect on the others. Where the embroidery is exquisitely done, these bring good prices, as they are really works of art in their way.

Fringes are not used so much on towels as formerly, and many towels are hem-stitched also. Fine damask ones are frequently trimmed with rich lace, but these are rather more for ornament than use.

The towel holder now consists of a single wooden or brass ring, or of several rings fastened to a rod, and it ranges in price from 48 cents to \$1.48.

There is a harlequin after-dinner coffee service, a marvel of beauty and richness, which costs \$68. It consists of six cups of dainty shape in different colors, shaded yellow, green and blue,



ROSETTE DESIGN FOR WOOD-CARVING.

of delicate tints, gilded, each with four tiny feet, and a silver coffee pot, tall and slender, with a lid which looks like an acorn, and a handle of ebony; silver sugar tongs and tiny spoons go with it, and they are put up in a richly lined case of leather.

It has several times been claimed that a solution had been discovered which would prevent silver from tarnishing, but a silver-smith of long experience says that everything of that nature has so far proven a failure, and that after a time the pieces dipped in it would grow dark as heretofore. That something of the kind will be invented in time there is no doubt, and it will add greatly to the comfort of those housewives who enjoy an abundant display of silver, but who are prevented from gratifying the taste, because of the labor involved in keeping it in order.

Dishes of every description are made in this metal, from the soup plate in plain silver to the highly ornamented dessert plate. Meat platters have covers of the same, and range in size from twelve to twenty-six inches in length, while small dishes for salted almonds, olives and bon-bons, are in charming shapes and great variety of chasing.

A novelty now on exhibition is a huge tray made for the Khedive of Egypt. It is five feet in diameter, weighs a hundred pounds, and is doubtless the largest piece of plated silver ever exhibited in this part of the world.

The craze for oxidized silver is unabated, and the commonest articles in every-day use are made of it. This is not so foolish as it might seem at first, as each piece is dipped in a solution which prevents it from tarnishing, and no polishing whatever is necessary.

Every whisk-broom must now have its silver handle, and this in the popular daisy pattern is only \$2.50, while even the useful hair-receiver, made in the shape of a cornucopia, has taken on a decorative aspect.

A silver water bottle sells for \$7; but this is an innovation which will hardly become popular; for handsome ones in cut glass may be bought for less, and they are much more suitable for the purpose.

Sugar dishes of graceful shape are only \$3.85 apiece, the gold-lined perforated ladle which goes with them being \$1.50.

A handsome cigar box, of antique shape, is made in imitation of the carved chests of mediæval times; it has two compartments for cigars, and in the centre, and separated from them by a metal netting, is a place for a sponge, which is to keep them in the proper moist condition. The price is \$19.50.

A handsome fireplace in the Colonial style is shown, which is painted white, picked out with silver. The fender and fire irons are also silver, and the table, chairs, and screen exhibited with it are in white, done in the popular porcelain finish. The tiling, in a fireplace of dark wood, is of a deep reddish brown, each tile being only one inch square. The effect is good as well as new.

The fancy for imitating old ivory is on the increase, and picture frames richly carved, and in coloring almost an exact reproduction, are very popular for etchings and water-colors.

Chandeliers in this same ivory finish are now made to harmonize with the white and gold effects so much admired in drawing-rooms and boudoirs.

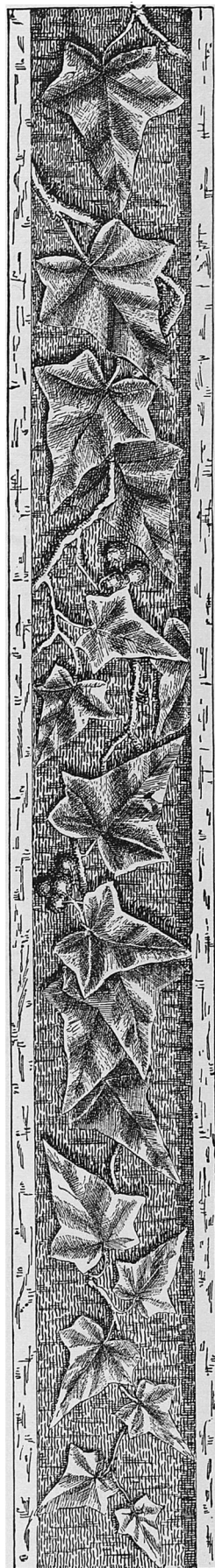
Bits of genuine old ivory of mellow coloring and rich carving are sold in the Japanese stores, and these are sometimes used for tops to parasols and umbrellas, and also for walking-sticks. A lady puzzled to know what odd thing to give husband or brother, may be glad of this hint.

The Japanese card cases in stamped leather, and paper in imitation of leather, are marvellously cheap now, and make very suitable gifts, being more durable than might be imagined.

Some charming specimens of Rookwood underglaze from the Cincinnati potteries are in a great variety of shapes and designs: vases large and small, lamps, teapots and cream pitchers, bowls and toilet-sets are shown, many of which are costly; but a prettily decorated flower bowl of good size sells for \$12, while a small, low dish, large enough to hold a few flowers, may be bought for \$3.50.

A massive library chair, which belonged to Napoleon Bonaparte, and which has been for some time on exhibition in New York, has just been sold to a private purchaser. It is of solid mahogany, beautifully carved, and is in perfect condition, with the exception of the leather seat, which is worn. The present owner intends to have it re-upholstered, and use it for the library.

SOMETHING new are the Korean fans, which are formed into scrap baskets. Two of them are fastened together with a puff, about three inches wide, of China silk (pink or green contrasts prettily), with an opening at the top large enough to insert the hand. The handles of the fans extend upward, and they are suspended by ribbons of the same color as the silk. The word "Scraps," in gilt lettering, appears on the outer fan and the price is \$1.75. Some Japanese braided baskets, which are quite new in this market, could well be used to hold newspapers. They are flat and deep, and have straw handles, one of which might be secured to the wall, leaving the other free. They are in two sizes, at 30 and 50 cents.



WOOD-CARVING BORDER.



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BY BENN PITMAN.

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